Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W $\,$

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PR 271619Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1381

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

CONFIDENTIAL BONN 14346

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PGOV WB US UR FR UK

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR EXHANGE OF TELEGRAMS ON

QA ANNIVERSARY

REFS: (A) STATE 210116; (B) BONN 13962

BEGIN SUMMARY. THE FRENCH HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED A REACTION FROM PARIS AFTER THE US AND UK TURNED DOWN SAUVAGNARGUES' WISH THAT THE ALLIES GO THROUGH WITH AN EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES WITH THE SOVIETS. THERE HAVE THUS BEEN NO FURTHER BONN GROUP DISCUSSIONS ON HOW TO RESPOND TO THE SOVIET PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.

1. BECAUSE OF CONTINUING SOVIET INQUIRIES IN LONDON, THE BRITISH ARE PRESSING FOR AN ALLIED DECISION ON HOW TO RESPOND TO THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR AN EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES ON THE SEPTEMBER 3 ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO THE UK BONN GROUP REP, THE SOVIET CHARGE CALLED FCO ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY HIBBERT AGAIN THIS MORNING ON THE CONFIDENTIAL

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MATTER. HIBBERT REPORTEDLY RESPONDED THAT, WITHOUT

PREJUDICE TO AN EVENTUAL DECISION, HE COULD ONLY OBSERVE THAT THE RECENT UNTOWARD EVENTS AROUND BERLIN HAD LEFT EVERYONE TOO PREOCCUPIED TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL. HE SAID HE WOULD BE UNABLE TO GIVE AN ANSWER BEFORE MONDAY, AUGUST 30, AT THE EARLIEST.

- 2. THE BRITISH EMBASSY HERE HAS GIVEN THE FRENCH, ON INSTRUCTIONS, A NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO THEIR AUGUST 20 DEMARCHE (REF B), AND AS A MATTER OF COURTESY WE HAVE INFORMED THE FRENCH THAT THE US REPLY (REF A) WAS BEING DELIVERED IN PARIS. FOR UNDERSTANDABLE REASONS, HOWEVER, THE FRENCH EMBASSY HERE HAS RECEIVED NO NEW INSTRUCTIONS. INDEED, THE US REPLY WAS APPARENTLY AT LEAST TEMPORARILY LOST IN THE SHUFFLE IN PARIS. THE FRENCH BONN GROUP REP WAS TOLD WHEN HE CHECKED WITH THE QUAI LATE ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 26 THAT NO ONE AT THE LEVEL OF POLITICAL DIRECTOR OR BELOW WAS AWARE OF ANY US MESSAGE ON THE SUBJECT.
- 3. ALLIED REPS ARE PREPARED TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT AS SOON AS THE FRENCH REP IS ABLE TO ELICIT WORD FROM PARIS. CASH

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